

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 181035Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2401

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, AO, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: COMMENT RE RUMORED TRANSFER OF ANGOLAN TROOPS  
TO MOZAMBIQUE

REF: LUANDA 147

1. THERE IS NO INFORMATION LOCALLY WHICH WOULD SUPPORT SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS TO EFFECT THAT 10,000 OR ANY ANGOLAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING TRANSFERRED TO MOZAMBIQUE. MILITARY SPOKESMAN TOLD ME LAST WEEK THAT WHILE NO ANGOLAN TROOPS HAD YET BEEN TRANSFERRED AND HE HAD NO INFO THAT ANY WOULD BE, SUCH TRANSFER WOULD MAKE SENSE IN VIEW EXCELLENT CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN ANGOLA. MILITARY SPOKESMAN HAS DENIED SIMILAR PRESS REPORT OF SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO EFFECT THAT ANGOLAN FLECHAS WERE OPERATING IN MOZAMBIQUE. LATTER WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE, AS WHOLE POINT OF FLECHAS IS TO USE INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL IN AREAS WITH WHICH THEY ARE FAMILIAR.

2. I CONSIDER REPORT IN PARAGRAPH TWO MOST IMPROBABLE, AND HAVE HEARD NOTHING HERE RECENTLY TO CONFIRM PORTUGUESE  
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WILLINGNESS ACCEPT MILITARY SUPPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA OR

THAT AIR STRIKES AGAINST FRELIMO SANCTUARY BASES IN TANZANIA ARE SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED. IF MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION SHOULD IN FACT DETERIORATE SIGNIFICANTLY IN MOZAMBIQUE, (WHICH IT HAS NOT, DESPITE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS TO CONTRARY, AND DESPITE WEAKENED MORALE IN BEIRA RESULTING MAINLY FROM LONG TERM DEPRESSED ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ONLY SECONDARILY FROM FRELIMO OUTBURST AGAINST VILA DE MANICA FARMS AND TRANS-ZAMBESIAN RAILROAD LINE DURING JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY), PORTUGUESE MIGHT BE TEMPTED ALONG LINES SUGGESTED. BUT WE ARE NOWHERE NEAR THAT POINT NOW, IN MY OPINION.

3. MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN ANYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED LOCALLY (OTHER THAN PERHAPS THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION), IN AFFECTING PORTUGUESE MORALE HERE, ARE RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, CULMINATING IN THE ATTEMPTED ARMY MUTINY OR REVOLT OR WHATEVER HAPPENED ON MARCH 15-16. CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY AS TO JUST WHAT LISBON'S INTENTIONS ARE, COULD HAVE GREATER AFFECT ON CONFIDENCE OF PORTUGUESE AATHORITIES AND GIVE PORTUGUESE POPULACE MORE JITTERS THAN ANY ACTIVITIES FRELIMO SEEMS PRESENTLY ABLE TO CARRY OUT. HOPE TO EXAMINE STATE OF MOZAMBICAN NERVES IN MORE DETAIL IN LATER MESSAGE.  
VAN OSS

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